

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ORIGIN EUR-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 077636

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, SP

SUBJECT: VISIT OF DUKE OF CADIZ

REF: MADRID 5928, DEC 19, 1972

1. MINISTER COUNSELOR OF SPANISH EMBASSY COUNT MONTEFUERTE TOLD IB DIRECTOR AT LUNCH APRIL 24 THAT ALFONSO, DUKE OF CADIZ, AND WIFE (FRANCO'S GRANDAUGHTER) MIGHT VISIT NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON IN MAY. AMBASSADOR SAGAZ IS THINKING OF GIVING BALL IN THEIR HONOR IN WASHINGTON MAY 25.

2. GIVEN RIVALRY BETWEEN ALFONSO AND PRINCE JUAN CARLOS, VISIT BY ALFONSO WOULD BE SOURCE OF ENDLESS POLITICAL SPECULATION IN SPAIN RE SUPPOSED U. S. ATTEMPT TO MEDDLE IN SPANISH SUCCESSION QUESTION. WE WOULD THUS APPRECIATE FURTHER INFORMATION ON BACKGROUND OF VISIT, TIMING, ITINERARY AND WHETHER VISIT IS SIMPLY IN RESPONSE TO INVITATION MENTIONED REFTEL OR REPRESENTS END RUN BY THE PARDO'S THREE FRANCO WOMEN TO GILD ALFONSO'S LILY. IN ADDITION, WE WOULD LIKE AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS OF HOW WE SHOULD HANDLE VISIT IN WASHINGTON (E. G., LEVEL OF OFFICIAL USG ATTENDANCE AT SAGAZ PARTY), GIVEN OUR POLICY OF ACCEPTING GOS PROVISIONS FOR THE SUCCESSION. ROGERS

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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